CLAIMS

Claims 1 - 21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously Presented) A computer system having a display device for rendering a graphical user interface of a Web browser displaying Web page content in a browser pane, and having at least one speaker for playing streaming media, the graphical user interface of the Web browser comprising:

a) a radio toolbar displaying radio-toolbar buttons for controlling the streaming media irrespective of the Web page content being browsed, the radio-toolbar buttons including:

i) a play/stop button enabled to toggle between play and stop to control, respectively, playing and stopping of available streaming media, and disabled when streaming media is unavailable;

ii) a mute button for instructing the Web browser to silence streaming media, the mute button assuming an inactive state if the computer system cannot modify volume and an active state otherwise;

iii) a volume slider for controlling the volume of streaming media played over the speaker, the volume slider assuming an inactive state if the computer system cannot modify volume and an active state otherwise;

iv) a radio-stations button selectable to alter a source of streaming media by providing a drop-down list that includes an "add station to favorites" entry and a list of recently used radio stations; and

v) an information area displaying a status text component and a status icon component, the status text component presenting meta data information associated with a streaming media source, the status icon component presenting an Internet connection status regarding the streaming media source; and

b) a cursor controllable by a user to select the radio-toolbar buttons, the cursor configured to highlight a radio-toolbar button while passing over that radio-toolbar button and to display a rollover tool tip describing a corresponding function of the highlighted radio-toolbar button; and

c) the radio toolbar and the cursor configured to control the graphical user interface of the Web browser via access to a shared memory established on the computer system, wherein the shared memory is shared between a radio client and a radio server to maintain a current playback-state of the radio server.

23. (Previously Presented) A computer system as recited in claim 22, wherein the rollover tool tip for the play/stop button is "play" when the play/stop button is toggled to stop, and "stop" when the play/stop button is toggled to play.

24. (Previously Presented) A computer system as recited in claim 22, wherein the rollover tool tip for the mute button is "mute" when the mute button is active.

25.   (Previously Presented)   A computer system as recited in claim 22, wherein the rollover tool tip for the volume slider is "volume control" when the volume slider is active.

26.   (Previously Presented)   A computer system as recited in claim 22, wherein the rollover tool tip for the radio-stations button is "radio station" when the radio-stations button is active.

27.   (Previously Presented)   A computer system as recited in claim 22, wherein the graphical user interface further comprises an "add to favorites" dialog box initiated by a selection of the "add station to favorites" entry from the drop-down list of the radio-stations button, the "add to favorites" dialog box allowing a user to add a currently playing streaming media source to a favorites folder.

28.   (Previously Presented)   A computer system as recited in claim 22, wherein the status icon component presenting the Internet connection status comprises:

a default icon of a streaming media source if the streaming media source is currently playing;

a progressing circle while streaming media content is buffering; and

a blank space if there is no connection to a streaming media source.

29. (Previously Presented) A computer system as recited in claim 22, wherein the radio-toolbar buttons are adjacent to one another on the radio toolbar as follows:

the mute button being adjacent to the play/stop button;

the volume slider being adjacent to the mute button;

the radio-stations button being adjacent to the volume slider; and

the information area being adjacent to the radio-stations button.

30. (Previously Presented) A computer system as recited in claim 22, wherein the graphical user interface further comprises at least one explorer bar for providing a display area adjacent to the browser pane, the at least one explorer bar capable of displaying information and allowing user interaction.

31. (Previously Presented) A computer system as recited in claim 22, wherein the graphical user interface further comprises a menu bar for allowing user control of the Web browser and the Web page, the menu bar including a plurality of menu entries selected from the group comprising:
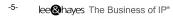
File;

Edit;

View;

Favorites;

Tools; and

Help.

32. (Previously Presented) A computer system as recited in claim 22, wherein the graphical user interface further comprises a navigation toolbar that allows user navigation of the Web page, the navigation toolbar including a plurality of navigation-toolbar buttons selected from the group comprising:

Back;

Forward;

Stop;

Refresh;

Home;

Search;

History;

Print;

Mail; and

Edit.

33. (Previously Presented) A computer system as recited in claim 22, wherein the graphical user interface further comprises an address bar identifying an address for the Web page being displayed by the Web browser in the browser pane.

34. (Previously Presented) A computer system as recited in claim 22, wherein the graphical user interface further comprises a status bar showing a current status for the Web page.

35.   (Currently Amended)   A method of managing streaming media on a computer system having a speaker for playing streaming media and a display device for rendering a graphical user interface of a Web browser, the graphical user interface of the Web browser including a radio toolbar, the method comprising:

launching an instance of the Web browser;

creating a radio client upon the launching of the Web browser;

determining if a radio server is running;

creating an instance of the radio server if the radio server was not previously running;

establishing a shared memory on the computer system between the radio client and the radio server to maintain a current playback-state of the radio server;

retrieving a URL to a radio station from the shared memory;

requesting that the radio server stream content of the radio station; and

via the radio toolbar:

disabling a play/stop button if streaming media is not available from the radio server;

if streaming media is available, enabling the play/stop button for selection, wherein toggling between play and stop causes playing and stopping, respectively, of available streaming media;

if the computer system can modify streaming media playback volume, activating a mute button and a volume slider, otherwise inactivating the mute button and the volume slider;

presenting a drop-down list that includes an entry to add favorites and a list of recently used radio stations upon user selection of a radio-stations button; and

displaying in an information area, components comprising a status text component and a status icon component, the status text component presenting meta data information associated with a streaming media source and the status icon component presenting an Internet connection status regarding the streaming media source.

36.   (Previously Presented)   A method as recited in claim 35, further comprising:

receiving a user instruction through the radio toolbar regarding streaming content from the radio station;

forwarding the user instruction from the client to the server; and

executing the instruction at the server.

37.   (Previously Presented)   A method as recited in claim 35, wherein the user instruction is associated with a radio toolbar function selectable from the group comprising:

playing the streaming content;

stopping the streaming content;

muting the streaming content; and

changing the volume of the streaming content.

38. (Previously Presented) In a computer system having a speaker for playing streaming media and a display device for rendering a graphical user interface of a Web browser, the graphical user interface of the Web browser including a radio toolbar having a play/stop button, a mute button, a volume slider, a radio-stations button, and an information status area, a method comprising:

establishing a shared memory on the computer system between a radio client and a radio server to maintain a current playback-state of the radio server;

disabling the play/stop button on the radio toolbar if streaming media is not available from the radio server;

if streaming media is available, enabling the play/stop button to toggle between play and stop upon user selection of the play/stop button, wherein toggling between play and stop causes playing and stopping, respectively, of available streaming media;

inactivating the mute button if the computer system cannot modify streaming media playback volume and activating the mute button otherwise;

inactivating the volume slider if the computer system cannot modify streaming media playback volume and activating the volume slider to control the streaming media playback volume otherwise;

presenting a drop-down list that includes an "add station to favorites" entry and a list of recently used radio stations upon user selection of the radio-stations button; and

displaying in the information area, a status text component and a status icon component, the status text component presenting meta data information associated with

a streaming media source, the status icon component presenting an Internet connection status regarding the streaming media source.

39.   (Previously Presented)   A method as recited in claim 38, wherein the graphical user interface includes a cursor controllable by a user to select radio-toolbar buttons, the method further comprising:

while the cursor passes over a radio-toolbar button,

highlighting that radio-toolbar button; and

displaying a rollover tool tip describing a corresponding function of the highlighted radio-toolbar button.

40.   (Previously Presented)   A method as recited in claim 39, wherein the displaying a rollover tool tip comprises:

displaying "play" when the play/stop button is toggled to stop;

displaying "stop" when the play/stop button is toggled to play;

displaying "mute" when the mute button is active

displaying "volume control" when the volume slider is active; and

displaying "radio station" when the radio-stations button is active.

41.   (Previously Presented)   A method as recited in claim 38, further comprising:

presenting an "add to favorites" dialog box in response to a user selection of the "add station to favorites" entry in the drop-down list; and

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allowing the user to add a currently playing streaming media source to a favorites folder through the "add to favorites" dialog box.

42. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 38, further comprising:

loading a radio station into the radio toolbar in response to a user selection from the list of recently used radio stations presented in the drop-down list.